

# **PATHS** THROUGH MUHLENBERG'S **THEATRE MAJOR**

**A guide to the Theatre curriculum**



## FIRST-YEAR EXPERIENCE

### THR 105: PERFORMANCE & SOCIETY:

A course with lab introducing students to the critical and historical study of performance. Why do people make theatre? What does it mean to perform? How does performance shape reality across different cultures, times and places?

### THR 107: DRAMATIC TEXT IN ACTION:

An introduction to reading and analyzing plays and other texts the way theatre-makers do. How can a play be a map for creating meaning in three dimensions?

## PRACTICES COURSES

Hands-on courses focused on foundational skills for theatre-making

at least 2 half-unit courses

## ARTISTIC PROCESS COURSES

Studio courses in Acting, Design, Directing, Playwriting & Stage Management.

at least 3 courses in 2 areas

## THEATRE SCHOLARSHIP COURSES

Seminar courses focused on reading, writing, and thinking about theatre & performance.

at least 3 courses

## ELECTIVE COURSES

Deepen your practice or explore something new!

at least 1 course of your choice

**THE CULMINATING STUDIO – SENIOR YEAR**  
Also known as the "CUE" (Culminating Undergraduate Experience), a semester-long theatre-making project in collaboration with a theatre faculty mentor.



## WHAT CAN I EXPECT IN MY FIRST YEAR?

When you meet with your Summer Advisor, the two of you will discuss your theatre interests, experiences, and goals for the future. You'll also talk a bit about first-year classes you *will* take, and kinds of classes you *might* take – both in the Theatre Program and in the General Academic Requirements.

### FOR SURE:

#### FALL – THR 105: PERFORMANCE & SOCIETY

A course with lab introducing students to the critical and historical study of performance. Why do people make theatre? What does it mean to perform? How does performance shape reality across different cultures, times and places?

#### SPRING – THR 107: DRAMATIC TEXT IN ACTION

An introduction to reading and analyzing plays and other texts the way theatre-makers do. How can a play be a map for creating meaning in three dimensions?

### ALSO FOR SURE:

**First-Year Seminar**  
**Foundations for Student Success**  
**General Academic Requirements**

### OTHER POSSIBILITIES:

**A theatre class from the Practices category**  
**Dance Technique classes**  
**Individual Singing lessons**  
**Stage Management I**  
**A Design class (Spring)**

Students can choose among many courses to fulfill their theatre major requirements, and may **absolutely** take more theatre courses than are required.

The following slides show you **just some** of the courses likely to be offered during your time at Muhlenberg, as well as how they fit in the major.

Additional courses not listed here will be offered in each of these four categories. Your advisor will discuss these with you every semester when you select courses.

### PRACTICES COURSES

Hands-on courses focused on foundational skills for theatre-making

### ARTISTIC PROCESS COURSES

Studio courses in Acting, Design, Directing, Playwriting & Stage Management.

### THEATRE SCHOLARSHIP

Seminar courses focused on reading, writing, and thinking about theatre & performance.

### ELECTIVE COURSES

Deepen your practice or explore something new!

## **PRACTICES COURSES**

Hands-on courses focused on foundational skills for theatre-making

at least **2** of  
these 1/2-unit  
courses

### **Course Offerings Include:**

- Stagecraft: Scenic Techniques
- Stagecraft: Costume Techniques
- Stagecraft: Properties
- Stagecraft: Lighting & Sound
- Movement for the Actor
- Voice & Speech for the Actor
- Fundamentals of Musical Theatre Performance
- Stage Combat
- Accessibility & the Arts

The courses in this category are all 1/2-unit courses.  
(Most of the other courses you'll take in the theatre  
major will be one-unit courses.)

At least one course you take in this category must  
be one of the Stagecraft options.

## **ARTISTIC PROCESS COURSES**

Studio courses in Acting, Design, Directing, Playwriting & Stage Management.

at least  
**3** courses  
in **2** areas

### **Course Offerings Include:**

#### **ACTING:**

- Acting Process
- Intermediate Acting:
  - Shakespeare & His Contemporaries
  - Bringing Feminist Texts to Life
  - Meisner Technique
  - Stanislavski's Psycho-Physical Technique
  - Advanced Acting course
- ... and more!

#### **DIRECTING**

- Directing: Process in Production
- Directing: Composing Performance
- Directing: Directorial Leadership

#### **DESIGN**

- Creativity & Collaboration
- Costume Design I
- Lighting Design I
- Scenic Design I
- Sound Design I & II

#### **PLAYWRITING**

- Introduction to Playwriting
- Advanced Playwriting Workshop

#### **STAGE MANAGEMENT**

- Stage Management I & II

*See the Electives slide for advanced courses in Acting and Design.*

## **THEATRE SCHOLARSHIP COURSES**

Seminar courses focused on reading, writing, and thinking about theatre & performance.

at least  
**3** courses

**Students take at least one course that explores a performance form of a historically underrepresented group. Some options include:**

- Race & Performance
- Feminist Theories of Theatre
- Jewish Drama
- Gay & Lesbian Theatre & Film
- History of Queer Performance
- Post-Independence African Theatre
- African American Drama
- Cartographies of Theatre & Performance in the Americas
- Philosophy & the Arts
- Latin American & Latino Drama
- Collective Creation in the Americas

... and more!

**Just a sampling of the other courses students may take to complete this category include:**

- History of the American Musical
- History of Western Costume & Fashion
- Performance Studies
- Staging the Restoration
- Renaissance Plays in Process
- Shakespeare
- Early Modern Spanish Drama
- Contemporary Irish Drama
- French Theatre of Resistance
- Opera
- Sex & Death on the German Stage

... and more!

## **ELECTIVE COURSES**

Deepen your practice or explore something new!

at least  
**1** course

**You can take any of the 1-credit courses listed on the previous pages, or if you have completed the prerequisites, take an advanced level Artistic Process course, including:**

- Advanced Acting:
    - On-Camera Acting
    - Audition Workshop
    - Postrealism
    - Acting the Song
  - Costume Design II
  - Lighting Design II
  - Scenic Design II
  - Advanced Topics in Design
- ... and more!



## **THE CUE STUDIO**

Culminating Undergraduate Experience

**1** course,  
taken as a senior

Your senior-year experience will include a semester-long, performance-based project, created with other seniors and led by a theatre professor. You will explore a theme or topic while practicing your artistic process, whether as a performer, director, designer, stage manager, dramaturg, playwright, technician, etc.

Past offerings include:

- Solo Performance
- Theatre in the Machine
- Ecological Theatre
- Testimonial Theatre
- Mad Woman in the Attic

On the following slides you will see examples of **just a few** of the many ways that you can complete the theatre major. You can follow one of these paths, or create a path of your own. The choice is yours!

You may find that one of these paths is quite similar to the one that's right for you. You may start out on a path similar to one of these, and then find that your interests have changed or broadened. You may already know that none of these paths is exactly the one for you. **All of this is all right!**

**Don't worry:** your major academic advisor will be a theatre professor, and they'll be there to help you figure it all out!

## Sample Path for...

A student who is interested in pursuing a professional career in acting

**Remember** that there are *many* ways to fulfill the requirements of the Theatre Major and explore your interests. This is just one!

### FIRST-YEAR EXPERIENCE

THR 105: Performance & Society  
THR 107: Dramatic Text in Action



### PRACTICES COURSES

Stagecraft: Lighting & Sound  
Voice & Speech for the Actor

### ARTISTIC PROCESS COURSES

Acting Process  
Intermediate Acting: Shakespeare & His Contemporaries  
Directing: Process in Production

### THEATRE SCHOLARSHIP COURSES

Race & Performance  
Staging the Restoration  
Sex & Death on the German Stage

### ELECTIVES COURSES

Advanced Acting:  
Audition Workshop

One Elective Course is required to complete the major; however, most students will take more courses than they need.

### Along the way, this student might also take the following...

Dance Technique courses  
Movement for the Actor  
Stage Combat

Advanced Acting: On-Camera Acting  
Methods of Performance in Healthcare  
Simulations

THE CUE:  
CULMINATING  
STUDIO



## Sample Path for...

A student who is interested in pursuing musical theatre

**Remember** that there are *many* ways to fulfill the requirements of the Theatre Major and explore your interests. This is just one!

### FIRST-YEAR EXPERIENCE

THR 105: Performance & Society  
THR 107: Dramatic Text in Action



### PRACTICES COURSES

Stagecraft: Costume Techniques  
Movement for the Actor

### ARTISTIC PROCESS COURSES

Acting Process  
Intermediate Acting: Stanislavski's  
Psycho-Physical Technique  
Stage Management

### THEATRE SCHOLARSHIP COURSES

History of the American Musical  
Opera  
Philosophy & the Arts

### ELECTIVES COURSES

Advanced Acting:  
Acting the Song

One Elective Course is required to complete the major; however, most students will take more courses than they need.

### Along the way, this student might also take the following...

Dance Technique courses and  
Individual Singing lessons  
(most semesters)

Voice & Speech for the Actor  
African Dances & Cultures  
The Musical on Film

THE CUE:  
CULMINATING  
STUDIO



## Sample Path for...

A student who is interested in pursuing graduate study in acting

**Remember** that there are *many* ways to fulfill the requirements of the Theatre Major and explore your interests. This is just one!

### FIRST-YEAR EXPERIENCE

**THR 105: Performance & Society**  
**THR 107: Dramatic Text in Action**



### PRACTICES COURSES

Stagecraft: Scenic Techniques  
Movement for the Actor

### ARTISTIC PROCESS COURSES

Acting Process  
Intermediate Acting:  
Meisner Technique  
Creativity & Collaboration

### THEATRE SCHOLARSHIP COURSES

History of Queer Performance  
Shakespeare  
Philosophy & the Arts

### ELECTIVES COURSES

Advanced Acting: Postrealism

One Elective Course is required to complete the major; however, most students will take more courses than they need.

### Along the way, this student might also take the following...

Multiple Dance Technique courses  
Voice & Speech for the Actor  
Stage Combat

Intermediate Acting: Bringing  
Feminist Texts to Life  
Advanced Acting: Acting  
the Song

**THE CUE:  
CULMINATING  
STUDIO**



## Sample Path for...

A student who is interested in directing

**Remember** that there are *many* ways to fulfill the requirements of the Theatre Major and explore your interests. This is just one!

### FIRST-YEAR EXPERIENCE

- THR 105: Performance & Society
- THR 107: Dramatic Text in Action



### PRACTICES COURSES

- Stagecraft: Lighting & Sound
- Stage Combat

### ARTISTIC PROCESS COURSES

- Acting: Process
- Directing: Process in Production
- Directing: Composing Performance

### THEATRE SCHOLARSHIP COURSES

- Theories & Practices of the Avant Garde
- Post-Independence African Theatre
- Italian Theatre

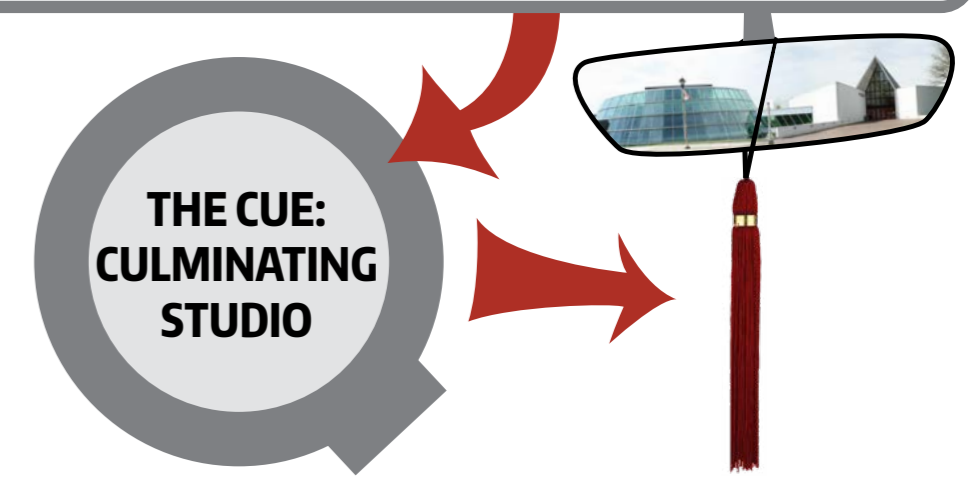
### ELECTIVES COURSES

Phenomenology

One Elective Course is required to complete the major; however, most students will take more courses than they need.

### Along the way, this student might also take the following...

- |                            |                                   |
|----------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| Creativity & Collaboration | Directing: Directorial Leadership |
| Stage Management I         | Sound Design I                    |
|                            | Intro to Playwriting              |



## Sample Path for...

A student who is interested in stage management

**Remember** that there are *many* ways to fulfill the requirements of the Theatre Major and explore your interests. This is just one!

### FIRST-YEAR EXPERIENCE

THR 105: Performance & Society  
THR 107: Dramatic Text in Action



### PRACTICES COURSES

Stagecraft: Costume Techniques  
Stagecraft: Scenic Techniques

### ARTISTIC PROCESS COURSES

Stage Management I  
Stage Management II  
Sound Design I

### THEATRE SCHOLARSHIP COURSES

Latin American & Latino Drama  
Feminist Theories of the Theatre  
Renaissance Plays in Process

### ELECTIVES COURSES

Sound Design II

One Elective Course is required to complete the major; however, most students will take more courses than they need.

### Along the way, this student might also take the following...

Accessibility & the Arts	Lighting Design I
Creativity & Collaboration	Stagecraft: Lighting & Sound
Arts Administration	

THE CUE:  
CULMINATING  
STUDIO



## Sample Path for...

A student who is interested in scenic design

**Remember** that there are *many* ways to fulfill the requirements of the Theatre Major and explore your interests. This is just one!

### FIRST-YEAR EXPERIENCE

THR 105: Performance & Society  
THR 107: Dramatic Text in Action



### PRACTICES COURSES

Stagecraft: Scenic Techniques  
Stagecraft: Lighting & Sound

### ARTISTIC PROCESS COURSES

Creativity & Collaboration  
Scenic Design I  
Stage Management I

### THEATRE SCHOLARSHIP COURSES

History of Western  
Costume & Fashion  
Gay & Lesbian Theatre & Film  
Dramaturgy & Play Analysis

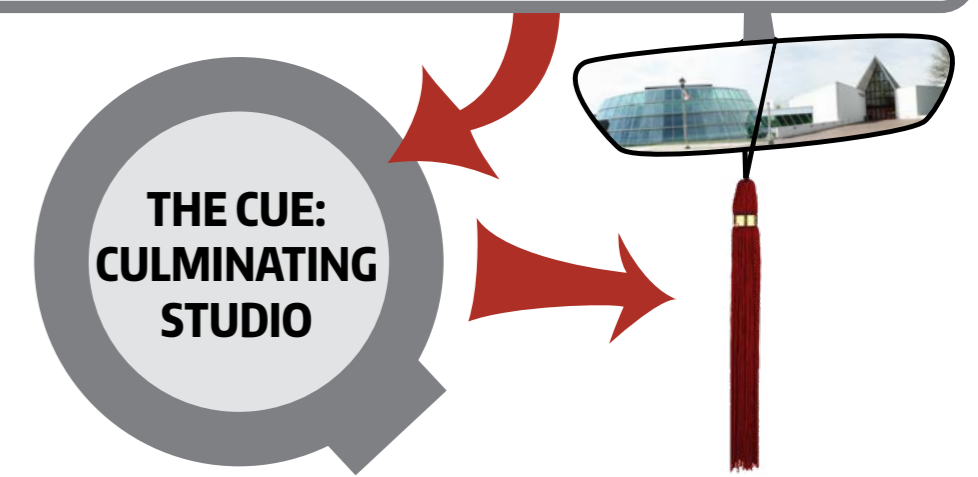
### ELECTIVES COURSES

Scenic Design II

One Elective Course is required to complete the major; however, most students will take more courses than they need.

### Along the way, this student might also take the following...

Symmetry & Shape	Lighting Design I
Introduction to Art History I & II	History of Modern Architecture
Stagecraft: Costume Techniques	





## Sample Path for...

A student who is interested in costume design

**Remember** that there are *many* ways to fulfill the requirements of the Theatre Major and explore your interests. This is just one!

### FIRST-YEAR EXPERIENCE

- THR 105: Performance & Society
- THR 107: Dramatic Text in Action



### PRACTICES COURSES

- Stagecraft: Costume Techniques
- Stagecraft: Properties

### ARTISTIC PROCESS COURSES

- Creativity & Collaboration
- Costume Design I
- Directing: Composing Performance

### THEATRE SCHOLARSHIP COURSES

- History of Western Costume & Fashion
- Early Modern Spanish Drama
- Opera

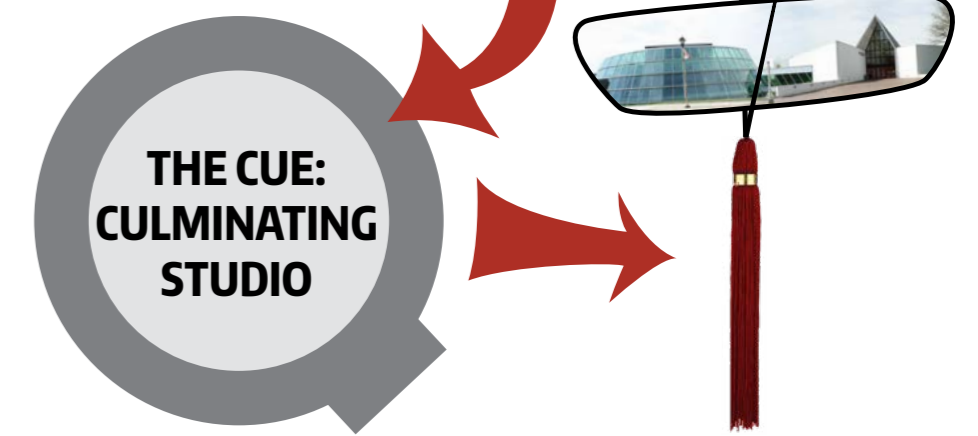
### ELECTIVES COURSES

- Costume Design II

One Elective Course is required to complete the major; however, most students will take more courses than they need.

### Along the way, this student might also take the following...

- Drawing I
- Lighting Design I
- Figure Studio
- Introduction to Art History I & II



## Sample Path for...

A student who is interested in lighting design

**Remember** that there are *many* ways to fulfill the requirements of the Theatre Major and explore your interests. This is just one!

### FIRST-YEAR EXPERIENCE

THR 105: Performance & Society  
THR 107: Dramatic Text in Action



### PRACTICES COURSES

Stagecraft: Lighting & Sound  
Accessibility & the Arts

### ARTISTIC PROCESS COURSES

Creativity & Collaboration  
Lighting Design I  
Introduction to Playwriting

### THEATRE SCHOLARSHIP COURSES

Jewish Drama  
Staging the Restoration  
French Theatre of Resistance

### ELECTIVES COURSES

Lighting Design II

One Elective Course is required to complete the major; however, most students will take more courses than they need.

### Along the way, this student might also take the following...

Light, Color & Electric Circuits  
Scenic Design I

Stagecraft: Scenic Techniques  
Introduction to Art History I & II

THE CUE:  
CULMINATING  
STUDIO



## Sample Path for...

A student who is interested in playwriting

**Remember** that there are *many* ways to fulfill the requirements of the Theatre Major and explore your interests. This is just one!

### FIRST-YEAR EXPERIENCE

THR 105: Performance & Society  
THR 107: Dramatic Text in Action



### PRACTICES COURSES

Stagecraft: Properties  
Accessibility & the Arts

### ARTISTIC PROCESS COURSES

Introduction to Playwriting  
Advanced Playwriting Workshop  
Acting Process

### THEATRE SCHOLARSHIP COURSES

Dramaturgy & Play Analysis  
Theatre & Creative Writing  
in Ireland  
Gay & Lesbian Theatre & Film

### ELECTIVES COURSES

The Tragic Action

One Elective Course is required to complete the major; however, most students will take more courses than they need.

### Along the way, this student might also take the following...

Directing: Process in Production	Advanced Screenwriting
Creativity & Collaboration	Workshop
Intro to Screenwriting	

THE CUE:  
CULMINATING  
STUDIO



# QUESTIONS?

**Email [theatredance@muhlenberg.edu](mailto:theatredance@muhlenberg.edu),  
and we'll get back to you quickly!**